Recent Hike in Fertilizer price in Gujarat

556. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an American consignment of wheat of 22,000 tonnes off loaded in Gujarat was smelling awefully and it is proposed *to* fumigate it before pushing it into PDS;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that fumigation will render it more injurious to health; and

(d) whether Government have made any enquiry into the import o' damaged wheat which is unfit for human consumption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) A consignment of 22,318 tonnes of U.S. wheat brought by vessel 'JAG VIJAY' at Veraval Port in Gujarat was fumigated because of presence of some weevils. However, the stock did not have *any* bad *smell.* Occurrence of weevils in foodgrains and the process of fumigation to contain insect activity are normal features, especially in tropical and sub-tropical climates like that of India. For scientific preservation, fumigation of foodgrain stocks with the specified fumi-gants at the prescribed dosage is an approved technique which is widely in use throughout the world as also with the Food Corporation of India, Central and State Warehousing Corporations and other foodgrain handling agencies in our country.

(c) Question does not arise.

Irregularities by C.W.C. Depots

557. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that irregularities have been found following the inspection of the depots of Central Warehousing Corporation;

(b) if so, what are the details of the warehouses involved in the said irregularities during the last three years; and

(c) what action Government have taken against the officers concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Certain irregularities have been found during inspection in 20 warehouses out of the total 470 warehouses of Central Warehousing Corporation, during the last 3 years.

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

List of warehouses where irregularities were observed during the last three years and action taken thereon.

S./No.	Name of the centre where irregularities have txien found	Nature of Irregularities	Action Taken
1	2	3	4
1	Chandigarh	200 bags of DAP have been delivered without authority.	Departmental enquiry has been initiated against three officials.
2	Nabha	Abnormal storage loss of food-grain.	The matter is under investigation.